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⑰ Applicant: DISCOVISION ASSOCIATES
2183 Fairview Road Suite 211
Costa Mesa California 92627(US)

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⑰ Inventor: Efron, Edward
10 Allegheny
Irvine, Cal. 92714(US)
Inventor: McPherson, James Oliver
2036 Vista Cajon
Newport Beach, Cal. 92660(US)
Inventor: Kim, Young Been
2131 Petaluma
Long Beach, Cal. 90815(US)

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⑯ A method of automatically evaluating the quality of an audio-video program recorded on a recording medium.

⑯ Method and means for evaluating the quality of audio and/or video transfer characteristics of a device upon which, or through which, audio and/or video information is contained, or passes, respectively. Both method and apparatus concern the evaluation of the quality of information transfer in the recording and playing back of a recording medium or in the transferring of audio and/or video information through an information handling device referred to as a throughput device. Unit evaluation is accomplished by establishing an input signal of known content, measuring selected parameters of selected parts of the input signal, feeding the input signal to the unit under test, measuring the parameters of parts of the output signal from the unit under test corresponding to the same selected parts of the input signal, and comparing the selected parameters of the input signal with the corresponding parameters of the output signal. Whether monitoring the quality of the signal transfer characteristics of a throughput device, a magnetic tape containing program material, or a video disc, master disc or replica, a "signature" is created for the unit under test, and subsequent analysis of the unit as it progresses along a production line or of a copy made on the same or alternate recording medium results in a

second "signature" which is compared against the first signature to make a determination as to the quality of the signal handling or transfer characteristics of the unit. In this manner, out-of-tolerance conditions can be automatically detected, thereby eliminating subjectivity and providing consistency in the quality level of device testing.

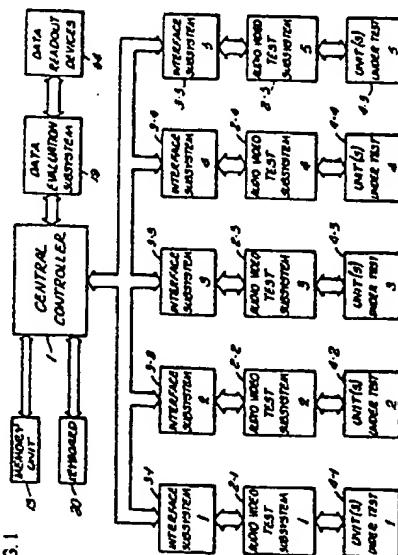


FIG. 1

EP 0 309 639 A3



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 88104680.9
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
A	GB - A - 1 408 818 (BURROUGHS CORP.) * Page 4, claim 1; page 5, claim 7 * --	1, 3	H 04 N 17/06 G 11 B 27/36
A	US - A - 3 517 305 (SCHWARTZ) * Claims 1-4; column 2, lines 1-4 * --	3	
A	WO - A1 - 81/03 591 (FOTOMAT) * Abstract * --		
A	GB - A - 1 198 148 (EASTMAN) * Page 4; claim 1 * --		
A	US - A - 4 120 006 (NAGAMI) * Abstract * -----		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			H 04 N 5/00 H 04 N 17/00 G 11 B 5/00 G 11 B 27/00 G 01 R 27/00
<hr/> <p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
VIENNA	25-01-1989	BENISCHKA	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
<p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p>			
<p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			